KUNNAMKULAM HERITAGE WALK 2026

LEGENDS
KUNNAMKULAM ANGADI
Preserving History Through Deserving actions

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

RESEARCH
Collecting historical data from authentic sources

→

VERIFICATION
Cross-checking facts with historical records and archives

→

DOCUMENTATION
Compiling, writing and structuring the information

→

VISUAL ARCHIVING
Documenting visuals, places and artefacts on ground

→

PUBLICATION
Sharing history with pride for future generations

IMPERIUM FIESTA

RESEARCHED, COMPILED & DOCUMENTED BY LEGENDS & IMPERIUM FIESTA

1 ANTIQUITY TO THE MEDIEVAL ERA (AD 52 – 1599)

AD 52 (Traditional)
Introduction of Christianity to the Malabar Coast. Early Christian settlements establish a parochial base at the Arthat-Chattukulangara site, linked to the coastal port and ancient church at Arthat.

9th – 15th Century
Thalappilli Swaroopam emerged as an independent chiefdom in the early 12th century following the disintegration of the Kulasekhara Chera Empire, while the Talapilli region itself had existed as an administrative Nadu since at least the 9th century.

1599
Archbishop Aleixo de Menezes enforces Roman authority during the Synod of Diamper. Arthat parish clergy refuse direct submission, coordinating via written correspondence.

2 THE ERA OF CONFLICT & THE RISE OF THE ANGADI (1750 – 1799)

1766 – 1776
Hyder Ali of Mysore invades the region. He records the settlement as "Nazarani Ghur" (City of the Nazarenes) due to its concentrated Christian population.

1789
Tipu Sultan's army occupies the area. Mysorean troops use Arthat Church as a tactical outpost and set fire to the cathedral, burning its massive wooden roof.

1790 – 1795
Displaced survivors from outer fields flee to elevated ridges under the leadership of Joseph Ittoop Kathanar (Pulikottil I). This migration leads to the growth of permanent merchant streets – the Kunnamkulam Angadi.

3 THE BRITISH SURVEYS & CHURCH REBUILDING (1800 – 1820)

1800
Dr. Francis Buchanan visits Kakkad-Kunnamkulam border. He documents the roofless ruins of Arthat Church and notes the local economy is heavily dependent on intensive betel leaf (Pan) cultivation.

1807
Church elders and merchant guilds draft the landmark Arthat Padiyola, declaring the structural and legal independence of the Malankara Church from foreign ecclesiastical control.

1808
Dr. Claudius Buchanan & Gen. Colin Macaulay visit. They had visited Kunnamkulam Angadi.

1811
The first New Testament translated into Malayalam is published in Bombay. Pulikottil Ittoop Ramban assists in translation, introducing modern text layout.

1815
Pulikottil Joseph Ittoop Kathanar is consecrated as Metropolitan. Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius I Establishes the Orthodox Syrian Theological Seminary (Old Seminary) in Kottayam.

1816 – 1820
Lieuts. Swain Ward & Peter Conner conduct military survey. They record the town as "Kunnamkulangara", identifying it as a rare, highly populous merchant bazaar driven by Christian areca nut & coconut plantation networks.

4 THE INDUSTRIAL PRINTING REVOLUTION (1850 – 1950)

Late 19th Century
Local entrepreneurs modify ground floors of Angadi Pura (line houses). Heavy letterpress machinery is installed to print prayer books, poetry & local almanacs (Panchangams).

1865 – 1909
Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II serves as Metropolitan, reinforcing Kunnamkulam as the administrative command centre of the Malankara Church.

Early 20th Century
The Angadi shifts from spice-transit hub to an industrial monopoly. Establishes a South India-wide printing infrastructure for notebooks, ledger sheets & stationery.

1935
February 11 – Plague (disease) declared at Kunnamkulam. Nearly 21 people killed in the next five months.

5 THE MODERN ERA (1950s – 21st CENTURY)

1948
Kunnamkulam is formally established as a Municipality by merging Kunnamkulam and Kakkad commercial zones.

Late 20th Century
The town adapts printing infrastructure to modern offset technology, maintaining its identity as a key hub for notebooks & paper goods in Kerala.

21st Century
Legends and Imperium Fiestas started recording and documenting the histories of Kunnamkulam Angadi, preserving its rich cultural and historical legacy for generations to come.

AS PART OF LEGENDS AND IMPERIUM FIESTAS
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION PROCESS AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FOR KUNNAMKULAM ANGADI

SPECIAL THANKS AT "WHAT'S THE STORY" FOR THE LOVE FOR HISTORY